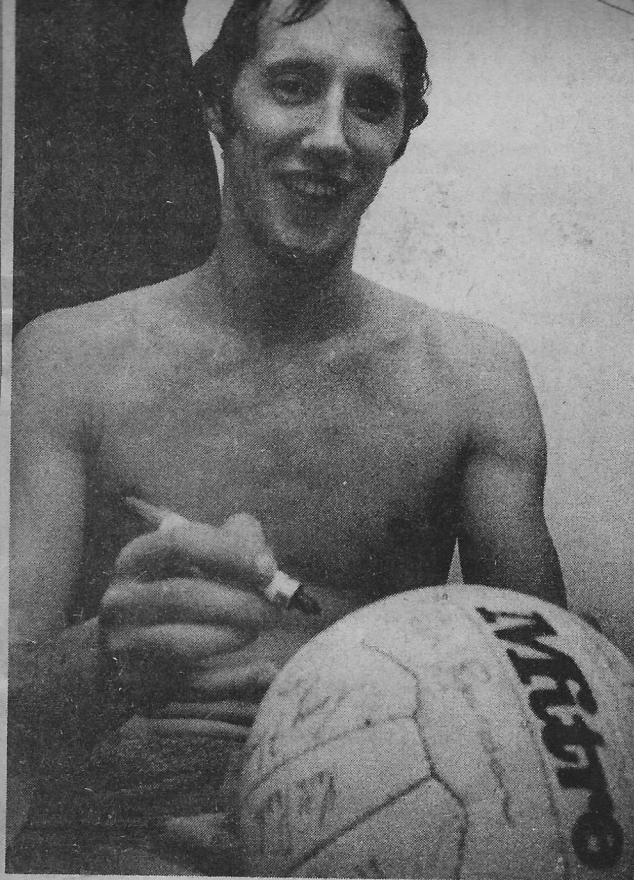


A welcome to Charlton's champs after we've K.O.'d Bournemouth



Alan Phillips, captain of Wycombe Wanderers, signs with pride the match ball with which his team drew with Third Division Bournemouth on Saturday. It has been signed by the other players and you can win it.

WYCOMBE Wanderers could be making more football history on Saturday, January 4, 1975. Dispose of Bournemouth down on the South Coast tonight (Wednesday) and Isthmian champions will face First Division foes in the F.A. Cup at Loakes Park for the first time ever.

The Wanderers (and Bournemouth), they drew 0-0 on Saturday, came first out of the hat when the draw was made on T.V. at 11.15 that night and their opponents are First Division Middlesbrough, who Jack Charlton took to the Division II title last season.

So it is all a matter of "We're all right Jack, we welcome Middlesbrough to Loakes Park after we have finished with Bournemouth."

And Wycombe's manager, Brian Lee, is confident that the Wanderers can win the Bournemouth replay.

Drama in the draw

Even the draw was drama laden on a night when the Wanderers had made club history by appearing in it for the first time ever.

It started off Wycombe Wanderers or Bournemouth v. Middlesbrough.

Then about five draws out of the hat later came "Coventry City v. Middlesbrough".

There was a sudden hush and looks of perplexity when Match of the Day's Jimmy Hill asked "haven't we had Middlesbrough before?"

They had and it was revealed that in the mix-up Norwich City would be sent to Coventry, Middlesbrough were due at Wycombe (or Bournemouth).

Middlesbrough have had some recent experience of matches against non-league opposition. They beat Grantham in last year's third round while their manager Jack Charlton was in the Leeds United side that beat Sutton 6-0 a few years back.

Middlesbrough's view

Club secretary Harry Green described the possibility of a match at Loakes Park as "extremely interesting."

"I know of Wycombe Wanderers' reputation as I used to live in London and had a few dealings with Slough Centre.

"The pro' club is always on a hiding to nothing in matches like this and when playing away from home, we're always a bit wary. Many of these amateur sides have a professional outlook and obviously we would have preferred a first division side. Nevertheless we'll be looking forward to playing Wednesday's winners.

"Our assistant manager Harold Sheperdson (the former England coach) will be at the game at Bournemouth to see the teams in action."

The Wanderers are expecting to be unchanged for the replay at Dean Court, Bournemouth, while the home team may make one change, Steve Buttle replacing Alan Welsh, in mid-field.

Wanderers leave by coach soon after lunch. At least four coachloads of supporters and many others in private cars will be cheering them on.

For a run-down on the Middlesbrough team and a full match report on the back page this week plus tomorrow's replay preview and action highlights from Saturday's game see page 19.

To add our tribute to the Wanderers performance in making the third round draw, we've hoisted the "flag" in blue this week!